FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

12 APRIL 1984

Lebanon

Tension prevails along the confrontation lines in the Al-Biqa' valley following clashes between Israeli and Syrian forces and the arrival of Israeli reinforcements, Beirut radio reported on 12 April. Earlier, a Libyan People's Foreign Liaison Bureau statement carried by Tripoli radio warned of "large Zionist forces" mobilizing to attack Syria and stressed that Libya considers any aggression against Syria as aggression against itself. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told a visiting U.S. official that Israel has no intention of attacking the Syrians, who therefore have no reason to fear Israel's intentions, Jerusalem radio reported.

Meanwhile, clashes continued across the contact lines in Beirut, and the western area came under renewed artillery fire from the eastern sector, according to Beirut radio. The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon accused Progressive Socialist Party and Amal Movement gunmen of aggravating the security situation. Nevertheless, representatives of the opposing sides reached "agreement in principle" on a timetable for separating the forces in and around Beirut during a meeting of the Security Arrangements Committee, Beirut radio reported.

Beirut radio reported that President Amin al-Jumayyil has instructed the Lebanese mission to the United Nations to raise the question of southern Lebanon and protest the cutting of roads to the south by the Israelis. Al-Jumayyil also stipulated that his government does not recognize military organizations that are not "officially and legitimately established or appointed" and will henceforth have no dealings with them.

Iran-Iraq War

Velayati Talks in Japan — Iran cannot end the war without recovering its "lost rights," Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said in a news conference in Tokyo, Tehran radio reported. Explaining the absence of direct talks, Velayati said Iraq does not respect international law and agreements and therefore Iran cannot rely on or consider valid any agreements concluded by the Iraqi Government. According to KYODO, Velayati informed Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe that Iran would not blockade the Strait of Hormuz unless its crude exports were completely blocked. Velayati also conveyed assurances regarding the safety of Japanese personnel involved in the construction of the Bandar-e Khomeyni petrochemical complex and told Abe that Iran would work for the earliest possible Majlis ratification of the 1983 accord on the project, KYODO revealed.

Iraqi-Jordanian Talks — Jordanian King Husayn held talks in Baghdad with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, who reviewed developments in the war with Iran and stressed Iraq's ability to stand firm against Iranian "aggression," Amman radio reported.

Iran

Majlis candidates are engaged in "healthy and extensive" competition resulting in very few offenses, Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi remarked in a report broadcast by Tehran radio. However, a statement issued by the head of the Council of Guardians Election Supervision Committee accused the newspapers *ETTELA'AT* and *KEYHAN* of a "clear violation" of the law when "a number" of ministers endorsed candidates, the radio reported. The statement added that legal action will be taken. Meanwhile, Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, in a message broadcast by Tehran radio, called for the "serious participation of all classes" as a "duty to religion." At the same time, he warned that if the people base their choice of representatives solely on "religious aspects," the Majlis may become "too weak" to overcome the country's problems.

Egypt

Military Maneuvers — The Armed Forces carried out maneuvers in the Suez area in which troops armed with U.S. weapons waged a "frontal battle" against units armed with Soviet-made weapons, MENA reported.

Mubarak's Brother — Sami Mubarak, brother of the president, is a candidate for the opposition New Wafd Party in the 27 May parliamentary elections, the London daily *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* disclosed.

Tunisia

President Habib Bourguiba is "well" after his eye operation in a French clinic, AFP reported citing a Tunisian spokesman.

Afghanistan

The DRA has ordered the expulsion of the third secretary of the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Richard S. Vandiver, for activity contrary to accepted international and diplomatic norms, Kabul radio announced. The radio said the U.S. official was engaged in spying and collecting information hostile to the DRA.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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U.S. Embassy Third Secretary Expelled for Spying

LD111635 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 11 Apr 84

[Text] Richard S. Vandiver, third secretary at the U.S. Embassy, has been ordered to leave Afghanistan.

In accordance with information, documents, and substantial evidence, the third secretary of the U.S. Embassy in Kabul was engaged in spying and collecting hostile information and activities against the DRA. His activity was contrary to accepted international norms and was in contravention of his diplomatic duty. Therefore, the DRA Ministry of Foreign Affairs considers him persona non grata. An official note, which was handed to the U.S. charge in Kabul this afternoon by the deputy director of protocol of the DRA Ministry of Foreign Affairs, objected to such activities a nd demanded his expulsion from the DRA within 48 hours.

SPA Reports on Fighting, Defections

LD111337 Riyadh SPA in English 1214 GMT 11 Apr 84

[Text] Islamabad, April 11, SPA — A Soviet helicopter was shot down in scenic Paghman City, 15 kms north-west of Kabul, on April 4, Western diplomatic sources reported here last night.

The Soviet troops launched a big ground operation on Kariz-e town in north of Paghman in Shomali region while nearly 20 Soviet MIGs heavily bombed the town, the sources said.

Four mujahideen and 30 civilians died as a result of the bombardment by the MIGs, they added.

The sources said four Soviet and three Afghan officers defected to mujahideen Commander Ahmad Shah Masud in Panjshir Valley, 90 kms north-east of Kabul, on April 5.

On the other hand, defections have been continuing ever since a military service decree of March 8 which forced conscripts to service for four years instead of three.

Nearly 118 Afghan soldiers have defected from the 8th Division headquarters near Qarghah Lake on outskirts of Kabul.

Meanwhile, Afghan mujahideen have blown up a strategic bridge over Kabul River on highway linking Afghan capital with the Pakistan border.

On March 18, they killed four Afghan soldiers and destroyed an armoured personnel carrier (APC) by planting mines on the road between Jalalabad and the Pakistani border.

On the other hand, mujahideen destroyed nine Soviet APCs, one Afghan armoured vehicle and inflicted heavy casualties on the Soviet-Afghan Government troops in a fierce engagement in Ghazni.

Eight mujahideen were killed and four wounded during the battle, the sources said.

Karachi: Mujahidin Attack Brigade in Herat

BK120327 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Text] According to reports, the Afghan mujahidin attacked a brigade of the Karmal forces in Herat Province of Afghanistan and killed more than 47 Soviet-Karmal soldiers.

Security Forces Rout 'Counterrevolutionaries'

LD112052 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 11 Apr 84

[Text] Quoting a spokesman for the security force of Kabul Province, a BAKHTAR information agency correspondent reports that recently as a result of a successful operation by the vigilant security forces of the country in the (Chinzai) and (Naseri) villages, Bagram District, Parvan Province, a number of counterrevolutionary elements, belonging to the Jami'at band were crushed and a number of these murderers were captured.

The report adds that 1 DShK, 2 mortars, 1 [word indistinct], 1 rocket launcher, 14 assorted weapons, antitank mines, 30 hand grenades, 1 pair of binoculars, 1 Japanese loudspeaker, 586 rounds of ammunition for mortars, DShK's, and rocket launchers, 6,500 rounds of assorted ammunition, and 4 gas masks were seized by the security forces.

AFP: USSR's Maltsev Set To Visit 21 April

OW111958 Hong Kong AFP in English 1916 GMT 11 Apr 84

[Text] New Delhi, April 11 (AFP) — Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Maltsev will visit India for four days beginning April 21 for talks on bilateral relations and international issues, a government announcement said today.

The talks will take place in the framework of periodic official-level talks between the two countries, the announcement said.

Indian Foreign Secretary Maharaj Rasgotra is to lead the Indian side during the discussions, it added.

Prime Minister Comments on Middle East Issues

BK111644 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Apr 84

[Text] The prime minister has expressed concern over the pouring of arms and ammunition into Pakistan. In an interview to an Arab newspaper published from Doha, Qatar, Mrs Gandhi said previous experience has proved that such arms and ammunition will be used against India.

On the Palestinian problem, Mrs Gandhi said the split in their ranks has stood in the way of an early solution.

On the Iran-Iraq war, she felt the atmosphere for peace is not encouraging at all. She called on everyone who has influence over the two countries to use it to end the war.

The prime minister said India's relations with the Gulf states and all Arab countries have historic roots. India was influenced by Arab culture and she believed the Arabs had acquired much from India.

Mrs Gandhi categorically stated that the Indian Ocean should be free from all foreign intervention. What is happening is just the opposite, she added.

Two Bombs Explode on Kashmir University Campus

BK111551 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Apr 84

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, two bomb explosions were reported in the Kashmir University campus today; however, no one was injured. Police are investigating the case.

Reportage on Punjab Situation 11-12 April

BK120324 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Text] In Punjab, one scooterist was seriously injured when three armed miscreants fired at him near Patiala yesterday afternoon. He succumbed to his injuries later in the hospital. The miscreants, while fleeing, took away the scooter of the victim. The police arrested three culprits after a hot chase.

The Akali Dal obsreved the protest day yesterday against the police firing in Amritsar a few days back. The party demanded immediate withdrawal of the Central Reserve Police Force from the city.

Curfew Imposed in Patiala

BK121244 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Text] In Patiala, a night curfew has been clamped from 1900 this evening to 0600 tomorrow morning. The step has been taken as a precautionary measure in view of some tension in a part of the city. A portion of the funeral procession of the victim of yesterday's shooting incident near Patiala turned violent today. The mob also indulged in stone throwing. Some policemen were also manhandled.

Two Killed in Tamil Nadu 'Mob Violence'

BK121558 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Text] In Tamil Nadu, two persons were killed and several injured in mob violence and police firing at (Erapady) village near Selam this morning. Nine policemen were injured in the incident.

The mob violence followed a clash between two groups and an attempt to set fire to the house of a local member of the legislative assembly.

Soyuz Crew Congratulated, Awards Conferred

BK111713 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Apr 84

[Excerpts] The president and the prime minister have hailed the safe return of the cosmonauts. In a message to Squadron Leader Rakesh Sharma, Giani Zail Singh congratulated the team for their successful mission.

The prime minister in a message expressed her happiness at the safe landing of the cosmonauts.

The chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Dilbagh Singh, described the event as India's fresh accomplishment in space and hoped that it will further strengthen bonds of friendship and cooperation between India and the Soviet Union.

The director of the Indian Space Research Organization, Professor U.R. Rao, said that the Soviet Union has helped India made a stride in space exploration and come close to using the latest in space hardware.

The president has approved the award of Ashok Chakra to Squadron Leader Rakesh Sharma and Kirti Chakra to Wing Commander Ravish Malhotra, who was on the backup team. The two Soviet cosmonauts, who took part in the joint flight along the Rakesh Sharma, also get the Ashok Chakra. This is the first time that Indian gallantry awards are being given to foreigners.

INDIAN EXPRESS Views River Talks With Bangladesh
BK111650 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English
2 Apr 84 p 6

[Editorial: "No Reason To Falter"]

[Text] The failure of the ministerial level Indo-Bangla Joint Rivers Commission [JRC] meeting just concluded in Dhaka to find a solution for the tangled question of augmenting the dry season flows of the Ganga below Farakka should not be taken with resignation. Both sides have too much to lose from a prolonged stalemate, let alone a breakdown of talks. The November 1982 summit agreement provided an interim dry season water sharing accord and gave 18 months for further negotiations. This period concludes on April 9, only a few weeks before the current dry season gives over and the Ganga again rises to a level where the needs of both countries can be satisfied until next winter. It would be best to leave the status quo undisturbed over this short interregnum pending a new arrangement.

The issue now reverts back to the political leadership of the two countries which is where it really belongs. There has for too long been a facile belief — as in the case of Nepal — that a water resources settlement is primarily an irrigation or engineering problem. It is not. The issue is political and concerns the long-term relationship that these countries think they can or should establish with one another, or regionally. The tendency to overlook or underplay this basic factor has necessarily constrained the two irrigation ministers in their efforts to tackle a problem that extends far beyond their competence. Hopefully, the latest experience will provide the needed wisdom to see the reality of where the knot must be united. There are also numerous trade-offs unrelated to water-sharing which would properly acquire greater salience in any broader overall settlement. Such a package would not only provide larger benefits to either side but also allow for an optimised least-cost solution.

Meanwhile, the JRC is to continue discussions on the smaller common or border rivers in the Cachar-Tripura-Mizoram sector on which some progress has been made and will proceed with consultations on the sharing of Tista waters on the basis of the joint studies under way. Even on the main issue of augmenting Ganga flows, both sides have moved forward to undertake a technical evaluation of the other's proposal. These studies could usefully continue. The latest round of talks was no doubt handicapped by approaching elections in both countries, with neither side wishing to appear to be "giving away" anything and thereby providing amunition to the opposition. This phase may be over in Bangladesh in the next few months though India's general election will then be so much nearer. All the more reason for the Government of India to seek a national consensus on an approach to this intricate question whose statesman-like settlement could open up a new era of regional cooperation and prosperity.

UN Spokesman Cited on Afghanistan Talks

BK120414 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Text] A UN spokesman in New York has said that the UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, has extended his shuttle mission to continue his conciliatory efforts in Afghanistan and Pakistan in a bid to seek a political settlement of the Afghanistan issue, in view of the good treatment received from the two countries. The spokesman said that so far no complete understanding has been achieved on special steps which should be taken to contain the difficulties that deserve settlement. However, agreement of views will be possible on steps by which a new life can be infused into these consultations.

The UN spokesman said that failure in arriving at an agreement on the timetable for the withdrawal of about 100,000 Soviet soldiers from Afghanistan is also a major hurdle in conciliatory efforts. The spokesman said that Cordovez will visit Islamabad and Tehran after further talks in Kabul prior to his return to New York.

University Students Injured While Carrying Explosives

BK120400 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Text] According to an ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN report, two students were seriously injured due to an explosion in a dormitory room at the new campus of Punjab University in Lahore yesterday. The explosion occurred when the students were carrying explosives from one room to another. The agency reported that students connected with a defunct students organization were residing in the room.

Briefs

Rice Exports — Pakistan exported 978,000 tons of rice worth about $334 million during the first 9 months of the current financial year. This is 460,000 tons more than the quantity of rice exported during the corresponding period last year. Among the major importers of rice were Iran, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Ivory Coast, Cameroon, Indonesia, and Togo. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Apr 84 BK]

XINHUA Delegation — Four members of the Chinese XINHUA news agency delegation arrived in Karachi today from Beijing on an 8-day visit to Pakistan. The leader of the delegation, Mr Qing, arrives tomorrow. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 11 Apr 84 BK]

BANGLADESH

Ershad Repeals Industrial Relations Regulations

BK120650 Dhaka BSS in English 0640 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Text] Dhaka, April 12 (BSS)— The President and Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. General Hussain Mohammad Ershad on Wednesday repealed industrial relations regulations of 1982 waiving restrictions on trade union activities.

The decision to waive restrictions on trade union activities was taken in response to the demands of the workers.

President Meets With 15-Party Alliance

BK120942 Dhaka Overseas Service in Bengali 1700 GMT 11 Apr 84

[Text] As part of the political dialogue on important national issues, the 15-party alliance today had a prolonged meeting with President and Chief Martial Law Administrator Lieutenant General H.M. Ershad and his colleagues at Banga Bhavan. [Passage indistinct]

Hasina Wajed, in her [words indistinct], thanked the president for his [word indistinct] enthusiasm for the revival of democracy. Later, she read a 4-page document on their 5-point demand. [Words indistinct].

Following the meeting, special assistant to the president, A.R. Yusuf, told newsmen that in response to the appeal by the alliance leaders and a letter of the vice chancellor of Rajshahi University, the president announced the pardoning of that university's students who have been sentenced by the military tribunal and laws.

On lifting the ban on press union activities, Yusuf said that the president will soon make an important announcement.

On ensuring security of students, teachers, and employees at educational institutions and the incidents of Mymensingh Agricultural University, Gen Ershad said that an inquiry commission headed by Justice Badrul Hyder Chowdhury had been set up. The universities are also enjoying autonomy.

The special assistant to the president said that there have been very free discussions on the 5-point demand of the alliance. The dialogue has been adjourned until 1000 next Saturday morning.

SRI LANKA

Reportage on Situation in Jaffna Area

Security Minister Comments

BK111735 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Apr 84

[Text] A Sri Lanka surveillance zone has been established in our historical internal waters. It stretches from the west of (Kalagama) and goes up to the northwest, northern, and northeastern coasts. This surveillance zone, which is well within our waters and nowhere near our maritime boundary with India, has already been established. Ships have been stationed at the respective points. Within the surveillance zone, fishing and other lawful activities will be permitted under supervision. Outside the surveillance zone, no traffic whatsoever will be permitted. This is because the risk of drug smuggling, especially of narcotics, and all illegal activities, particularly illegal entry and exit.

These details were disclosed by the minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, at a news conference held in Colombo today. Mr Athulathmudali believed that this will be very helpful in the present circumstances.

The minister also told newsmen that terrorists attacked the highways department and the customs department during the curfew hours in the Jaffna municipal area. Outside the area, they carried out various attacks, including the burning of the Point Pedro police station. They attempted to ambush the Army at a number places by erecting roadblocks. They were going about openly throwing bombs, carrying bombs and weapons, and setting up roadblocks by burning old tires across the road. During the afternoon and in the night, security forces took various measures to bring the situation under control.

Mr Athulathmudali said that at [name indistinct] the terrorists attempted to ambush an Army truck. The Army avoided the ambush and fired at them. According to the information, several people died. He said that [words indistinct] to distinguish terrorists and civilians during curfew hours. He pointed out that, when the curfew was lifted in the morning, more terrorists were trying to move about than the civilians. A group of terrorists was caught with locally made bombs at places in Jaffna. In this incident, six terrorists were killed with weapons in their hands.

The Army commander and the inspector general of police were flown to Jaffna and all are under their command. He said that the policy of the government was as far as possible to deal with terrorists, avoiding any inconvenience or injuries to the ordinary citizens.

Mr Athulathmudali said that it was not possible to distinguish a terrorist and an ordinary citizen during an attack in the middle of the city.

Referring to a statement made by Mr A. Amirthalingam in Madras early this morning, the minister said that Mr Amirthalingam, according to the information, has condemned the attack on places of religious worship. He has also condemned the minister of national security for the damage caused to a church in Jaffna. Mr Athulathmudali, explaining this, pointed out that Mr Amirthalingam was out of touch with the situation in Jaffna as he was away for a long time. He was unable to distinguish between an accidental and a planned damage to a third place of religious worship, as was the case in respect of the church. The church authorities have fully realized that the damage was absolutely accidental. It has been caused in part by the fact that terrorists had misused the church as a place for the launching of an attempted attack on an Army truck. The church authorities, he said, had made no complaints to the government.

Mr Athulathmudali said that the government was unhappy for the problems caused to the people of Jaffna as a result of the activities of the terrorists. It was trying its utmost to reduce the inconvenience caused to them.

General Sepala Attygalle, secretary to the Ministry of National Security who was also present at the news conference, said that 22 persons, most of them believed to be terrorists, have been killed during the last 3 days in the Jaffna Peninsula.

Further Athulathmudali Remarks

BK121146 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Text] No one will have the satisfaction of creating chaos in the country and then fleeing to another country. This was stated by [Minister of National Security] Mr Athulathmudali yesterday when he spoke at the 85th Mahapola at Kelaniya.

The minister said that naval vessels will be deployed along the coast not only from Talaimannar to Delft and Kachchativu but also along the entire northern and eastern coast. There will be no opportunity for anyone to escape from the country.

Mr Athulathmudali said that our problems could be solved before long if all the leaders in Tamil Nadu tried to understand the problems we face. He added that the government's actions in the north are not levelled at the Tamil people but against the terrorists. The sole objective of the government is to protect innocent lives while eradicating terrorism.

The minister once again expressed his thanks to the people for understanding the aims of the terrorists and maintaining law and order in their respective areas. He said that the terrorists seemed dissatisfied by the fact that the people in the south have not been provoked. He stressed that although the terrorists may try to adopt new strategies, these will be destroyed.

Referring to his trip to India, the minister said that he hoped to explain clearly our problems to the Indian leaders. He noted that if the leaders in the state of Tamil Nadu understand our problems, we are prepared to hold friendly talks with them.

Mr Athulathmudali hoped that the new year will be one of peace and harmony for everyone in the country. The minister of industries and scientific affairs, Cyril Mathew, was also present on the occasion.

Death Toll of 25-30

BK121111 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Text] The curfew hours in Jaffna have been relaxed. The new curfew hours are from 1600 today to 0600 tomorrow.

Secretary to the Ministry of State Douglas Liyanage told a news conference today that the death toll in the Jaffna Peninsula is reported to be between 25 and 30 persons. He told newsmen that these deaths occurred from Monday up to yesterday morning. No incident has been reported since then.

Mr Liyanage said that the curfew has been relaxed by 4 hours for the convenience of the public to purchase their provisions on the eve of new year.

Security Minister Leaves for India 12 April

BK121114 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Text] The minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, left for India this morning on a special Indian Airlines plane.

According to a report from the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA news agency, Mr Athulathmudali will be received by the Indian defense minister, Venkataraman, in the absense of External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, who is on a visit to Europe. Mr Rao, however, will hold discussions with Mr Athulathmudali before his return to Sri Lanka.

The minister is due to hold talks with special envoy G. Parthasarathy and to call on the prime minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi.

Accompanying the minister is a director of the Southeast Division of the Foreign Ministry, J.C. Rajapalese.

Singapore To Operate Oil Storage 'Tank Farm'

BK061228 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 6 Apr 84

[Excerpt] The operation of the tank farm in Trincomalee will not affect the security interest of either Sri Lanka or any other country. The minister of industries and scientific affairs, Cyril Mathew, made this statement in Parliament yesterday when he spoke on the awarding of the tender for rehabilitation of the tank farm to the Oroleum Limited of Singapore. He said that, in implementation of the agreement, the Government of Sri Lanka was empowered to issue binding directives to the foreign investor in the interest of the country's national security, defense, and foreign policy. The Ceylon Petroleum Corporation has been empowered to direct the foreign investor not to store, rent, or supply oil for military purposes. The minister said that the project would be handled by a company incorporated in Sri Lanka and the operation of the company would be governed by the laws of this country.

Velayati Talks About War, Security of Hormuz

LD111915 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Apr 84

[Excerpts] At 1900 today, Tokyo time, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, our country's minister of foreign affairs, and Mr Abe, Japan's minister of foreign affairs, took part in a press, radio, and television conference with all the domestic and foreign newsmen in Tokyo.

In connection with Iran's foreign policy concerning the war and the security of the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, Mr Velayati said: We are not doing anything except defending our country. We will continue this defense until the complete realization of all our rights. In connection with the Persian Gulf, we consider ourselves the guarantors of peace and safety of navigation in the region and, more than anyone, insist on safeguarding peace and the safety of navigation in the region. Our vital interests demand that the region be secure so that ships can comfortably pass through the Strait of Hormuz.

Replying to a question by the *ASAHI* correspondent as to how he would define this war and what proposals he had for halting its escalation, our country's minister of foreign affairs said:

If we had a clear definition of this war it would be amply clear that our aim is not escalating and intensifying the war. The present war was imposed on us by the Iraqi regime at the instigation of others and the superpowers. Indications are that from the very start it was not a transient issue, but its aim was to topple the fledgling Government of the Islamic Republic. We rose in defense of our existence. Despite all the advanced weaponry placed at Iraq's disposal by both world political camps, we have been able, thanks to our self-sacrifice, to bar the way to this aggression.

From our standpoint, this war is defensive. We cannot end it without regaining our nation's lost rights. Throughout this war, thousands of our houses, hundreds of villages, and industrial and economic centers have been destroyed. Some 2 million of our people have been turned into refugees; and a large group of our civilian population, contrary to all international agreements, have been taken prisoner or martyred. This is the nature of the war we call Iraq's imposed war on Iran and to which you refer as the Iraqi-Iranian war. Under such circumstances, we have defended our country, and still a part of our homeland is under Iraqi occupation. Therefore, how can they want us, in view of all these losses, to allow the war to take its course?

Every nation, because of its national honor, should defend its independence. The history of the Japanese nation also consists of such acts of self-sacrifice to defend its independence against foreigners. We think that we are carrying out a deed that would be accepted by all honorable people in the world.

He emphasized that Iran, under no circumstances, intended to escalate the war, but rather the Islamic Republic is engaged in defending itself.

In reply to a question by the *ARAB NEWS* correspondent as to the reason for the lack of direct talks between Iran and Iraq, Mr Velayati said: The Iraqi Government does not respect the agreement it concluded with Iran in 1975. A few days before the beginning of the war, Iraq unilaterally abrogated that agreement and attacked Iran. Also contrary to all international agreements, Iraq attacked Iran's populated regions and resorted to the use of chemical weapons. These show that the Iraqi Government, whenever it feels powerful, will trample under foot any agreement. That government does not respect international laws and agreements. Therefore, that government's agreements cannot be relied on or considered valid.

President Khamene'i Discusses War, Islam

Cautions Iraq's Supporters

LD090703 Tehran IRNA in English 0655 GMT 9 Apr 84

[Text] Tehran, April 9, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i Sunday cautioned supporters of the Iraqi regime in the region and the world against their continued collaboration with that regime, stressing that if the world failed to penalise Iraq for its infringement of basic human rights, the Islamic Republic would severely punish it.

If Iraq had not been deceived by the superpowers, presence of a powerful country such as the Islamic Republic in the region, which does not have any design on other's territory, could have raised the value of this part of the world, Khamene'i noted.

The president was speaking at a gathering to mark the 40th day of the martyrdom of a number of Islamic combatants and students of theological centres martyred during the victorious Khaybar offensive (Feb. 21, 1984).

The world today had realised that it was only through people's support that the superpowers with their modern weapons and giant arsenals could be defeated, President Khamene'i said.

Referring to the martyrdom of Ayatollah Sadr, prominent Iraqi religious leader, the president said that the usurpers who were plundering oppressed Iraqi people thought that with Ayatollah Sadr's martyrdom, they could deviate Islamic movement in Iraq.

President Khamene'i also outlined victories of Islamic combatants in Khaybar offensive, adding that such a triumph was in fact a great defeat for a regime (Iraq) which dreamt of changing world's political map with a speedy victory.

The ceremony was also attended by families of the martyrs, those disabled during the revolution, and a group of military and disciplinary forces.

Stresses Iraqi 'Weakness'

LD101426 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Apr 84

[Text] A group of clergymen this morning met with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i. At this meeting, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, in a speech, elaborated on the strong position of the combatants of Islam on the fronts of the war

between truth and falsehood: Thank God, our situation in the Khaybar operational region is such that the mercenaries of the Ba'thist regime of Iraq have completely lost hope of recapturing the Majnun Islands. The Iraqi regime tried very hard to retake these islands at the beginning, but found itself too weak to do so. Therefore, it started a vast propaganda campaign to belittle the value of these islands. When the Islamic Republic of Iran invited foreign correspondents to visit the region and the news of potential value of these islands was released, the world public realized the falsehood of the Iraqi regime's propaganda and the world changed its approach toward the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The president emphasized that the morale of our forces is currently high, thank God. They are ready to attack and fight the Iraqi Ba'thist-Zionist enemy. He added: Only when military forces lose their fighting spirit is their destiny [word indistinct]. At present, the Iraqi forces are in such a condition and they are unable to retake the regions occupied by the forces of Islam and reach the borders. Their only expertise lies in hiding behind their fortifications. Despite all these fortifications, because of our faithful and committed forces, we will achieve final victory.

While recounting various developments in the Middle East, the president said: The Government of Iraq is in a critical situation at present. With its condemnation by humanitarians and justice seekers of the world because of its use of chemical weapons it has received a heavy blow. This has destroyed the feeling harbored by many governments that Iraq can be defended. It also proves the weakness of Iraq in spite of the use of chemical weapons.

The president, at the end of his speech, noted that following the remarks by the imam of the nation a real and extended effort has been made to help the elections; he invited the people to take an active part in the elections and to seek the views of knowledgeable and (?worthy) people in order to elect the best candidates.

Views Superpower 'Animosity'

GF111630 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 11 Apr 84

[Text] Tehran, April 11, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i speaking to a group of families of martyrs here today said that world big powers have been using all their might to damage the Islamic revolution of Iran and thus to destroy Islam.

Hostilities of these powers towards the Islamic Republic of Iran derive from their animosity against Islam. The Iraqi regime and its supporters who have been helping the Iraqi ruler in his war against Iran, all sought to defeat Islam, he stressed.

In another part of his speech he said that plots of these powers against the Islamic Republic of Iran had not come to an end. As long the people of Iran were aware of their responsibilities and fulfilled them, these plots would all be thwarted, he pointed out.

On the situation of the warfronts, he said that the 43-month-old Iraqi imposed war was in fact an element which would determine the fate of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Islam at large. We are not only fighting off the Iraqi regime, rather we have been fighting against the two powers toward both of which we have rejected to incline.

These powers had not been accustomed to see that a nation remain independent from them. Now that the Iranian people have held firm to their principle of neither East nor West, these powers have been doing their best to make the Islamic revolution of Iran to kneel down. However, he concluded, they have not succeeded in their ominous plan so far and would not in future.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,693

LD111754 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Apr 84

[Communique No 1,693 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] Yesterday, exchanges of artillery and mortar fire continued on the Bakhtaran and Ilam border fronts; fire was more intense in the Qasr-e Shirin and (Dasht-e Zahab) regions. Known enemy losses on the various fronts in the western operational zone consisted of the destruction of one truck carrying personnel and five light and heavy weapon trenches and damage to two enemy vehicles.

On the Piranshah, Sar Dasht, Hajj 'Umran, Marivan, and Panjwin border fronts, our combative units opened heavy weapons fire, thus stopping the movements and construction activities of the Saddamists. In the Hajj 'Umran region, our forces set fire to one enemy mortar and several slit trenches and foxholes. Furthermore, through the fire of our combatants on various enemy vehicles in the Chuman Mostafa region and the (Varesi) heights, losses and casualties were inflicted on the Saddamist forces and the movements of Iraqi servicemen were stopped.

Exchanges of fire continued yesterday on the southern fronts; they were more intense around the Majnun Islands and in the Kushk and Sharhani regions. Two enemy excavators and 14 light and heavy weapons trenches were set on fire and destroyed by our forces in an area to the west of the Arvand Rud.

Yesterday, as a result of the enemy's long-range weapon fire on the residential areas of Abadan, 16 houses and 5 shops were damaged.

Groups Continue To Leave for Battlefronts

LD080854 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0230 GMT 8 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Voluntary departure of our country's monotheistic and revolutionary young people for the imposed-war battlefronts in order to defend the Islamic Revolution continues. According to some reports, during the past several days a great number of self-sacrificing members of the Mobilization and the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps left for the battlefronts from Yazd, (Koh Kiluyeh), Mobarakeh, Ardestan, Zanjan, Bandar Abbas, Kashan, Qom, Deh Dasht, Gach Saran, (Yasuj), and Shiraz.

4,000 Depart 9, 10 April

LD102137 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 10 Apr 84

[Text] This afternoon amid glorious celebrations in Imam Hasan Garrison more than 3,000 fighters from the Labbayk Ya Khomeyni Plan of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps of the 10th District, including Tehran, Karaj, Varamin, Firuzkuh, Damavand, and Shahr-e Rey, left for the battlefronts of the war between light and darkness. The Labbayk Ya Khomeyni Plan comprises trained and experienced forces who have passed a number of training courses, who enjoy the experience of several participations in fighting operations, and who volunteer to be sent to the battlefronts of the war between light and darkness.

According to the same report, yesterday, more than 1,000 Fath II fighters left Imam Hasan Garrison for the battlefronts.

Conscripts Called Up by Shiraz Gendarmerie

GF111026 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 10 Apr 84

[Text] The Shiraz Gendarmerie Battalion today issued a statement asking high school graduates eligible for service and born between 1959 and 1964 and who were graduated in 1983 or before and who have received dispatch papers from Shiraz, Sepidan, Sarvestan, Abadeh, Eqlil, Marvdasht, Arsanjan, Surian, Zargan, and Sa'adatshahr conscription centers to contact Shiraz Gendarmerie Battalion at 0700 on Wednesday, 11 April, for processing and dispatch. All dispatch papers and photocopies of education records must be carried by all conscripts. The statement stressed that absentees will be dealt with as specified by law.

Musavi Details 11 April Cabinet Session

LD111532 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Today's Cabinet session, held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, dealt with current national affairs and political developments in the region. Afterward, in an interview with our correspondent, the prime minister talked about the issues discussed at today's session:

[Begin recording; correspondent] Mr Musavi, can you tell us what were the most important issues discussed in today's session?

[Musavi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Today we heard a number of reports, the most important of which were about the elections. We received a number of very encouraging reports from the Interior Ministry,which revealed a healthy and extensive competition between various candidates, as well as people's participation. At the moment,there is a great deal of activity throughout the country in order to get to know the candidates and decide for whom to vote. Fortunately, despite peoples' extensive participation and the heat which the elections have generated, we have received very few reports of offenses. [Passage indistinct]

We also heard reports on Lebanon. In our view, with the involvement of France and other big powers, certain developments are taking place there, which should be confronted by believing and Muslim forces, on the basis of their reliance on Islamic and ideological principles. They should ensure that events do not lead to the partitioning of Lebanon and events do not move in a direction that can be exploited by the compromisers and opportunists. I think that in view of the complexities and difficulties of the Lebanonese issue, if we confront every complexity with Islamic and ideological principles we will find the appropriate answers. Naturally, the Muslim and believing forces in Lebanon are paying attention to this matter.

We also heard extensive reports by the ministers who are helping Bushehr Province concerning the deprivations faced by the province — especially as there has been a draught there this year. It was decided that certain steps should be taken to help. Of course, there are some long-term plans such as thinking about a general solution to the issue of water shortage there by building dams. However, these programs take time, although some studies have begun. Crash programs should be carried out, especially concerning border exchanges and cooperatives which have been formed in this connection. Greater attention should be paid to fishing and solving the issue of water in Bushehr Province itself, as well as a comprehensive plan for the city of Bushehr.

Our brother Zali submitted a fairly long report on agricultural issues and made certain proposals. The Cabinet started its discussions with a debate concerning the issue of agriculture. God willing, this discussion will be continued in future sessions. This Cabinet session issued an order that all organizations in the Islamic Republic cooperate in resolving this matter. There are a number of difficulties facing agricultural progress, which were discussed, including ambiguity concerning the issue of land which inhibits investment and people's confidence in expanding their investment in agriculture. We hope that with the cooperation of the Majlis and all esteemed jurisconsults this matter will be resolved. The government's view is that if we can win the trust of the people over investing in agriculture, we will certainly see great changes and improvements in agriculture. [end recording]

Ayatollah Montazeri Message on Majlis Elections

LD112032 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Apr 84

[Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri message on Majlis elections — read by announcer]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. As the elections to the second Majlis draw near, the great and selfless nation of Iran approaches a sensitive juncture in its revolution. The sensitivity of this juncture is clearly discerned in the imperialistic strains of the foreign radio stations and their hostile propaganda. With regard to the sensitivity and importance of the matter, I wish to point out:

1. The active presence and serious participation of all classes and strata of the nation in the present elections is a duty to religion

and to conscience, since the main secret of the success of the principle of the revolution and its perpetuation at dangerous and important times and places, which we have so far succeeded in surmounting, is this very active presence of the people, that is to say, the masters of the revolution. It is the solid presence of a vigilant nation that the enemies of Islam and the revolution find so bitter and unbearable. All our dear compatriots are therefore expected to take part in the elections and neutralize all the hostile propaganda and conspiracies of the enemies, disappointing them more than ever before.

2. The people's complete freedom to choose representatives is one of our basic principles, and any sort of imposition or the creation of an adverse atmosphere that diminishes an individual's freedom of choice are condemned by both religious and civil law.

3. Having regard for the sensitive role of the Majlis in the maintenance of the prestige of the revolution and the destiny of the country, a deputy should not only have attained a high level in religion and committment to Islam and the revolution, but also have political understanding, wisdom and sagacity, the ability to plan, and be knowledgeable in current affairs and the political issues of the day. If attention is paid only to the fact that he is a member of the clergy and to religious aspects, and other features are neglected, the Majlis may become too weak to overcome the problems and complex needs of the revolution and the country; and it may not be able to fulfill its fundamental role at this sensitive juncture. The types of specialized skills required for legislating the country's affairs by the Majlis must be studied. Such specialities should find their way into the Majlis along with commitment and religiousness. Of course, we still have a need for specialist skills in Islamic studies, ethics, and religious jurisprudence.

It is appropriate that where there is uncertainty surrounding various candidates, the candidates themselves should sit down, regardless of personal position, and for the sake of God and the good of the country, they should choose among themselves the best person, giving him preference over themselves, and then inform the people of his nomination as candidate in the election. They must realize that by displaying such selflessness and forebearance, they are being of the greatest service to Islam and the revolution.

Second, the people should get to know the candidates before the elections. If they can, they should investigate for themselves the candidates' ideological and revolutionary records, their stances before and after the revolution, the extent of their commitment and selflessness, wisdom, sagacity, and decisiveness. If such investigation is not possible, the religious law does not permit voting without good grounds, unless the stances, ideological and ethical features, and the character of those supporting the candidates are fully known and trusted. In cases where several candidates are introduced by parties, groups, or organizations, the voter must study each one in turn. In such a momentous and vital matter, affecting as it does the destiny of the revolution and nation, we do not have the right to go by personal or group considerations, blindly voting for someone of whom we have no knowledge. It might well happen that certain candidates are not very well known, but better than others as regards their religiousness, their ability and piety. Those unable to read or write should seek help from someone they know and trust before voting.

4. We must take great care in whom we nominate; and we should not, God forbid, by rumormongering and creating an atmosphere tell the people that a person is good or bad. Nomination of a candidate should not be accompanied by insult or the belittling of other candidates, since to defame people and destroy the active forces of the country is to commit a cardinal sin. Brothers and sisters should seek to avoid incurring the wrath of God Almighty for the sake of others.

5. Interior Ministry officials and those responsible for the security of ballot boxes and supervisory organizations should realize that the people's votes are held in trust by them, and any negligence or, God forbid, alteration, is a breach of trust. They must take great care in safeguarding, counting, and announcing the votes and scrupulously avoid the exercise of any personal or group influence.

6. Candidates and voters must take care that the elections should not be a means of settling scores and of enmity, whether during or after the elections. They should observe Islamic ethics and unity of expression. Those losing or winning must show respect for others; and when necessary, they should unstintingly help one another both ideologically, and in the coordination of the expediences of the revolution and the country.

Under conditions where East and West are mobilized and united against Islam and the revolution and await the defeat or political isolation of the Islamic Republic, the duty of Islam and of the conscience of all classes and strata is a heavy one. Preservation of the legacy of the glorious martyrs is dependent on our sincerity, selflessness, and unity of expression. We must note that our great revolution has paid a heavy price to stand on its own two feet. We should try to throw off our personal desires along the path of the revolution and Islam and consider the true issues of Islam and the revolution. We must refrain from accepting responsibilities that we are unable to fulfill and entrust the offices to committed and capable persons. All political responsibility is a divine trust and must be entrusted to those who are strong and trustworthy. We should not think who will be more submissive, who more likely to yield, since this will lead only to the strong being isolated, while the incapable and flatterers attain position. Consequently, this will lead to nothing less than the downfall of the country.

Let us recognize the standing and prestige of this great and selfless nation, and this great revolution, and this great leader, unequalled in history; and let us devote ourselves to the service of Islam and these noble people. I appeal to God for the victory of the combatants of Islam, the exaltation of the martyrs, and fortitude for the survivors, for the glory and greatness of Islam and the Muslims, for the life of the leader of the revolution, for the prosperity of all those who serve. Peace upon you, and the mercy of God and His blessings.

[Signed] Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, 11 April 1984

Montazeri Meets With Bakhtaran Official

GF120650 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Zarandi, temporary Friday imam of Bakhtaran and member of the Council of Experts from Bakhtaran Province, yesterday met with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri; they discussed the curriculum at Bakhtaran Seminary and the new theological schools. Grand Ayatollah Montazeri in this meeting, while praising the services and activities of Mr Zarandi, said that today our most important duty is to strengthen the seminaries in the districts: I hope that you with your efforts, knowledge, and support will succeed in this great responsibility.

Free Voice of Iran Reports Explosion in Tehran

GF111030 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 10 Apr 84

[Text] While the Khomeyni regime is continuing its efforts to hold elections to the so-called Islamic Majlis, it was announced in Paris that a bomb went off in the vicinity of the guards headquarters in Tehran. Even though the report by Iranian opposition sources in France does not cite the damage caused, it has been stressed that one guard was killed and a number of others wounded by the explosion.

IRNA: Counterrevolutionaries Lose Bases in Mahabad

LD081515 Tehran IRNA in English 1405 GMT 8 Apr 84

[Text] Urumiyeh, West Azarbayjan Province, April 8, IRNA — With the establishment of revolutionary and government institutions in the rural areas of Mahabad, 137 km south of here, following mopping up operations against armed counterrevolutionaries, more than 10 billion rials (dlrs 113.6 m) worth of credit has been spent in development and welfare plans there. The governor of Mahabad told IRNA that with the presence of the Islamic forces in the region, deviated counterrevolutionary rebels have lost their permanent bases, "are wandering the mountains."

He added that one of the most effective blows for the counterrevolutionaries was the issuance of a writ of safe conduct for those rebels who had surrendered to the Islamic forces and recanted their past activities.

Commentary Views Mission of UN Envoy on Afghanistan

GF111040 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 10 Apr 84

[Uanttributed commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners: Cordovez, the UN representative dealing with the question of Afghanistan, has launched a new initiative aimed at having the Geneva talks on Afghanistan resumed. During the past few days, Cordovez travelled to the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, and Afghanistan and conferred with various authorities. In his meeting with Cordovez, Foreign Minister Velayati explained in clear terms the stand of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the question of Afghanistan. Velayati explained the (?demands) of the Islamic Republic of Iran in four points:

1. The occupationist Soviet troops must quickly and unconditionally evacuate the Islamic land of Afghanistan.

2. The Afghan refugees must be allowed to return freely to their homeland.

3. Another imperialist force must not replace the occupationist Soviet force which will withdraw from Afghanistan.

4. The Muslim people of Afghanistan must be allowed to determine their own future.

The Geneva talks in 1982, which were held without the participation of the true representatives of the Muslim Afghan people, failed to produce any result. Thus, it must be well understood that similar talks organized with the participation of the true representatives of the oppressed Muslims in the future will continue to be unproductive. The talks held to date under the direct pressure of the Eastern and Western imperialist forces and their agents have had absolutely no effect on the Afghan people's determination to continue their Islamic resistance. In fact, the eight rounds of talks organized over the question of Afghanistan have not obstructed the revolutionary Muslims in their glorious struggle.

On the other hand, regardless of its military might, the bloodsucking and imperialist Soviet Union, which has been keeping Afghanistan under its occupation for more than 4 years now, has not only failed to achieve any success against the faith of the Afghan mujahidin but also suffered heavy losses during this period of time. In that regard, we have been witnessing new heroic actions by the Afghan mujahidin every day. And, new legends are currently being written, particularly in the Afghan Provinces of Herat, Kandahar, and Kabul.

Imperialist forces are doing everything within their power to divert and defeat the Islamic revolution of Afghanistan. In that regard, mass media organs controlled by imperialism are endeavoring to present diplomatic plots hatched behind the curtains as the only means of resolving the question of Afghanistan. An example is the recent casts of the BBC, which is one of the propaganda mounthpieces of Zionism and imperialism, referring to Zahir Shah who has fled from Afghanistan. BBC has even had an interview with him.

These conspiracies clearly indicate that imperialist forces are making strenuous effort to draw the Muslims of Afghanistan to the negotiating table. It is common knowledge that during his rule in Afghanistan, Zahir Shah served well his Eastern and Western patrons. Currently, he has drawn the attention of imperialist forces on himself. The Eastern and Western imperialist powers have arrived at the conclusion that Zahir Shah is the most ideal agent for them to facilitate the continuation of their hegemony on the Islamic land of Afghanistan and plunder the wealth of the oppressed Afghans. With this view in mind, both imperialist powers are trying to acquaint the world with this old imperialist pawn in order to prepare the ground for his return to Afghanistan.

Nevertheless, regardless of the lack of material resources required for freeing their Islamic homeland from the claws of Soviet imperialism, the revolutionary Muslims of Afghanistan are continuing their glorious struggle. Without being hindered by the joint conspiracies of nationalists, royalists, and particularly the imperialist forces, they are continuing their holy war, taking into consideration, in the meantime, the Islamic school of thought which regards martyrdom as the essence of ultimate happiness. The Afghan mujahidin understand that there is no other alternative to free the Islamic land of Afghanistan from the claws of the occupationist communists and establish the Islamic order in daily life. Yes, this is the only alternative the Muslims of the world, particularly those of Lebanon, Palestine, and Iraq, should choose to realize their wish for hoisting the banner of Islam on the lands in which they live.

Commentary Reacts to Reagan's Statements on Hormuz

GF111354 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Apr 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners: Once more, satan Ronald Reagan has unbridled his tongue. He threatened and warned, flexing his muscles as he stands at the threshold of the U.S. presidential election. Reagan said he will not permit Iran to close the Strait of Hormuz. Well, Reagan can say whatever he wants. Reagan, who spent his life as an actor in Hollywood, should realize that talk is cheap, especially when it comes out of the mouths of satans. His perception was acquired from his acting profession — which he mastered well — that is, he knows that the election atmosphere cannot be keyed up without bragging even if it does not [words indistinct].

The assessment of the American situation is based on such rules which render the U.S. news media an octopus that swallows what is about, that confiscates wills and freedoms, and that changes people into puppets that move about as on television screens. Thus, we see that Reagan's election requirement makes him reiterate a lot of these statements so as to say to the wretched American people that America's prestige is still high and that the archsatan is still the master of the international situation. Hence, we don't see anything in these statements warranting a reply from us. However, this does not prevent us from explaining some facts to world public opinion so that it will not fall victim to these empty statements.

First, Islamic Iran is most anxious to keep the Strait of Hormuz open because it is one of the countries that benefit most from it. This means that the Islamic Republic of Iran will be the first to suffer as a result of the closing of this strait. This is a fact that no one denies. However, it also involves another fact: We exert enormous efforts to keep this strait open to international navigation, provided it continues to be used for peaceful purposes and on the one condition that we are the ones to protect it from those who would exploit it. If we are denied this right, and if we cannot export our oil through it, then we will deny others this right especially when we know that these others supply Saddam with funds and weapons. This is one of our basic rights, whether Reagan agrees or not.

Second, the Saddamist regime ruling in Iraq is the one which started to threaten and is still threatening the safety of navigation in the Persian Gulf. It is the one which threatened to hit the ships that approach our ports and it is the one that is threatening oil tankers which approach Khark Island. Nevertheless, satan Reagan made no move and did not offer us a satanic admonition on the Gulf's security. However, when we say to the world that if we are deprived the right to export our oil we shall not hesitate to close the strait, satans and those who seek their protection among leaders and lackeys become mad as if injustice is permissible whereas the right of the wronged to retaliate against those who are unjust to him is disputed and even deserves punishment.

With this situation in view, we see that the United States has not reached the stage of foolishness so as to intrude in the Persian Gulf region. It pleases us very much that it loses its mind and gambles so that our forces are not preoccupied by someone like Saddam. Rather, it honors us to fight our real war with the archsatan and at that time all its interests will be subjected to our mercy and we shall have our reasons for disciplining it and teaching it the lesson it deserves. It is our hope that Reagan will not forget his statements after the presidential election if he is fated to see, once again, the threshold of the White House.

First Ambassador to Sri Lanka Appointed

GF111636 Tehran IRNA in English 1551 GMT 11 Apr 84

[Text] Tehran, April 11, IRNA — On the proposal of Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and approval of President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, 'Ali Salihizadeh Menshadi was appointed as ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Sri Lanka.

It should be noted that he is the first ambassador to that country. Establishment of diplomatic ties at ambassadorial level was among the topics discussed in the recent visit of Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Abdul Hameed to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Sri Lankan foreign minister heading a political and economic delegation arrived in Tehran on April 7th.

Sri Lankan Minister Departs; Statement Issued

GF111754 Tehran IRNA in English 1712 GMT 11 Apr 84

[Text] Tehran, April 11, IRNA — In conclusion of an official visit to Iran by A.C.S. Hameed, minister of Foreign affairs of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, the two governments in a joint statement issued here today pointed to the strong and friendly ties based on solid cultural and historical affinities between the two countries.

The statement further reiterated the intimately shared stands of the two countries towards the current international and regional issues.

In the statment both sides expressed the desire that the existing relations should be further strengthened and consolidated through continuous contacts in various fields. The foreign ministers of the two countries recognized the need for increasing and strengthening of economic relations between the two countries.

They explored the possibilities of such cooperation in agriculture, trade, tourism, technical and economic. [as received] They also recognized the need for exchange of expertise amongst others in areas such as the cultivation of wheat and rice and fruits. Both sides also expressed their willingness to establish a joint economic commission for this purpose.

The statement took note of the provocative acts of the Iraqi regime taken against the Islamic Republic of Iran since the victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran and explained in detail the all out aggression and the occupation of a great portion of the Iranian territory and the heavy material damages and human losses inflicted on cities, villages, industrial installation and civilian ones such as hospitals and schools that are in contravention of all humanitarian and international regulations' rules and conventions.

The statement reiterated the two governments full support for the legitimate struggles of the peoples of Palestine and Lebanon for the liberation of all Arab and Palestinian occupied territories and realisation of the rights of the oppressed people of Palestine. They also condemned all acts of aggressions against Lebanon and Palestinian people.

The statement also expressed deep concern over the tense situation in Afghanistan and emphasised full support for the independence, territorial integrity, sovereignty of the people and the non-aligned status of Afghanistan. Both sides condemned the presence of the forces of the Soviet Army of occupation in Afghanistan and called for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of these forces from Afghanistan.

The statement strongly condemned any form of aggression and intervention against other countries as well as the resorting to force for the settlement of disputes and using or supplying chemical weapons by any country, while stressing the necessity of maintaining stability and security in the Persian Gulf. In this regard Iran condemned military presence and joint military maneuvers of outside forces in the Persian Gulf and considered them as a threat to international peace and security.